



Labour Force Survey 2019 Annual Statistical Report



Saint Lucia Central Statistical Office



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Information contained in this report is derived from the results of quarterly Household Labour Force Surveys conducted from January to December 2019 and is aimed at providing information about the level of participation of household members in the labour force and the size of the labour force, aged 15 years or above, engaged in economic activities. It is the collated responses of a sample of households interviewed during this period and not the opinion of the Central Statistical Office. Results from sample surveys are always estimates, not precise figures.



INTRODUCTION

The Saint Lucia Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a quarterly survey implemented by the Central Statistical Office (CSO) that produces both quarterly and annual tabulations, in addition to reports. These Labour Force Surveys (LFSs) collect information on the socio-economic characteristics of the sampled population (covering the ten districts of Saint Lucia) and its activity status at the household level. This annual release analyzes the labour market changing circumstances according to the statistical data collected during 2019 and highlights the key findings on six (6) key labour market indicators, namely; the labour force, unemployment, youth unemployment, employment, time related under-employment and labour force participation rate.

The main focus of this basic report is to provide statistical information on the 2019 LFS, however, in some instances the indicators are also presented over a five-year time series on both national and district levels. This time series data provides a basis for monitoring trends in the economy and the labour market situation in Saint Lucia.

The Labour Force Survey covers the following:

1. The currently active population, also referred to as the labour force, consists of the employed and the unemployed categories. This gives the number of people comprising the labour force for a specified period.
2. The inactive population covers those members of the population who are not available for work including full-time students, retired persons, homemakers and the incapacitated (disable) i.e. persons outside of the labour force.



MAIN LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS

Table 1 below provides a statistical snapshot of the main labour market indicators during the period 2015 to 2019.¹

Table 1: Labour Market Main Indicators, 2015-2019

Main labour force indicators, Annual 2015 to 2019	Annual 2015	Annual 2016	Annual 2017	Annual 2018	Annual 2019	% Change 2018 to 2019
Working-age population ('000s)	140.7	143.6	143.3	142.8	142.3	0.5
Labour force ('000s)	101.6	104.6	102.4	102.0	101.0	1.0
Labour force participation rate (%)	72.2	72.8	71.4	71.4	71.0	0.5
Employment ('000s)	77.1	82.4	81.7	81.4	84.0	-2.6
Employment-to-population ratio (%)	54.8	57.4	57.0	57.0	59.0	-2.0
Unemployment ('000s)	24.5	22.2	20.6	20.6	17.0	3.6
Unemployment rate (%)	24.1	21.3	20.2	20.2	16.8	3.4
Time-related underemployed ('000s)	2.8	2.7	1.5	1.5	1.1	0.5
Time-related underemployment as a share of labour force (%)	2.8	2.6	1.4	1.5	1.0	0.4
Youth unemployment ('000s)	12.1	11.0	11.0	9.8	7.9	2.0
Youth unemployment rate (%)	41.0	38.4	38.5	36.3	31.6	4.7

Note: Changes shown between Annual 2019 and Annual 2018

Source: Central Statistical Office

LABOUR FORCE

In 2019, St. Lucia recorded 142,257 persons in the working age population. As shown in Figure 1, 100,976 persons were in the labour force of which 52.2% were females and 47.8% males. This resulted in a labour force participation rate (LFPR) of 71% (Figure 2) which reflects the section of the population who were currently employed or seeking employment. There was a decrease of 0.5 percentage points of LFPR from 2018 to 2019. Saint Lucia experienced its highest LFPR in 2016 and the lowest in 2019.

Overall, 37.8% of the total labour force reported upper secondary school (Forms 4 & 5) level of education as the highest educational level attained, followed by Pre-primary/Primary level of education, which accounted for 36.3%. Persons with Tertiary (University) level education accounted for 9.4% of the labour force.

¹See the Central Statistical Office website (www.stats.govt.lc) for more Labour Market Indicators



Figure 1: Annual Labour Force, 2015 to 2019

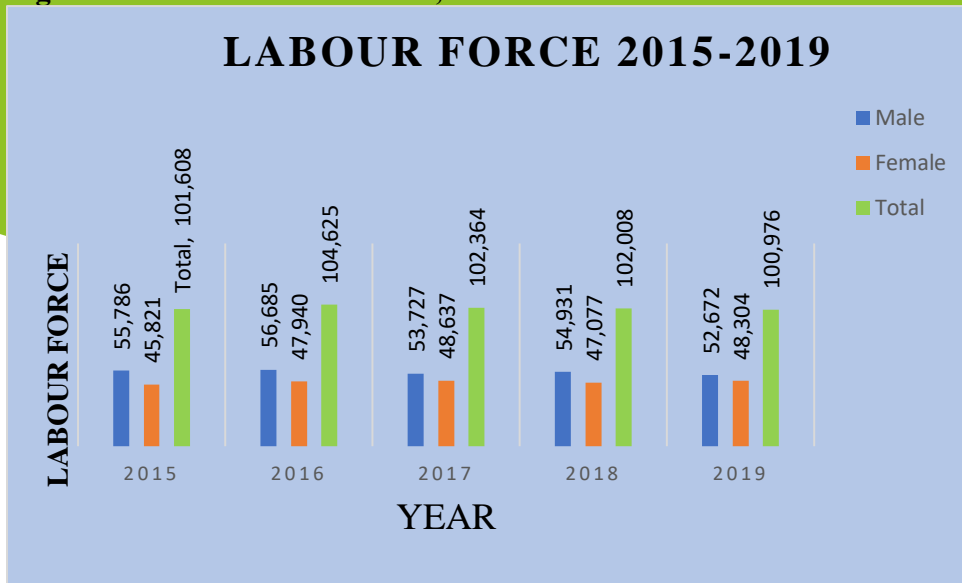


Figure 2: Labour Force Participation Rate, 2015 to 2019





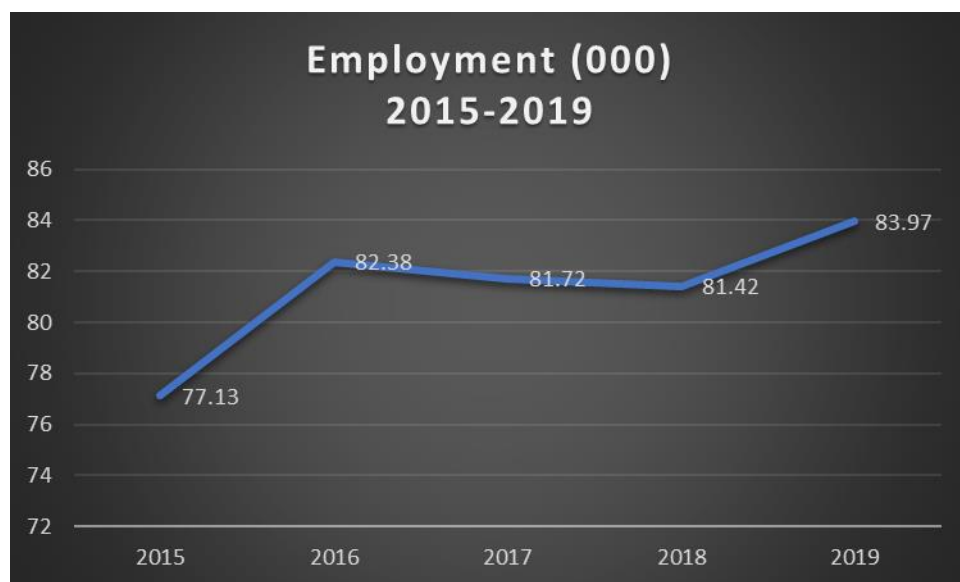
In 2019, out of the working age population, i.e. aged fifteen years and above, 28.8% were economically inactive. An analysis of the data by sex shows that the 32.8 % females and 24.7% males were economically inactive out of their respective working age populations.

Table 2: Economically inactive by reason for inactivity and sex, 2019

Reason for inactivity	Economically inactive population as share of the working-age population (%)		
	Male	Female	Both sexes
Education	0.0	0.0	0.0
Family Responsibilities	0.2	0.8	0.5
Discouragement	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.3	0.3	0.3
Not Stated	24.2	31.7	28.0
Total	24.7	32.8	28.8

EMPLOYMENT

Figure 3: Annual Employment, 2015 to 2019



The overall employment to population ratio (the proportion of the country's working-age population that is employed in the country) increased to 59.0% in 2019, from 57.0% in 2018. During the periods 2016 to 2018, employment figures were relatively constant whereas from 2015 to 2016 there was a significant growth as outlined in Figure 3. Of the 83,977 persons employed in 2019, 5% were reported as vulnerable employment. The data revealed the top four concentration of employment were in "Service and Sales workers", "Elementary Occupations", "Craft

and related trade workers and Professionals" as outlined in figure 4. The age cohort "45-54" reported the highest proportion (24.6%) of employed persons while the highest proportion of people (77%) worked between "40 – 48" hours per week as illustrated in table 3.

Figure 4: Top 4 Annual Employment by Occupation, 2019

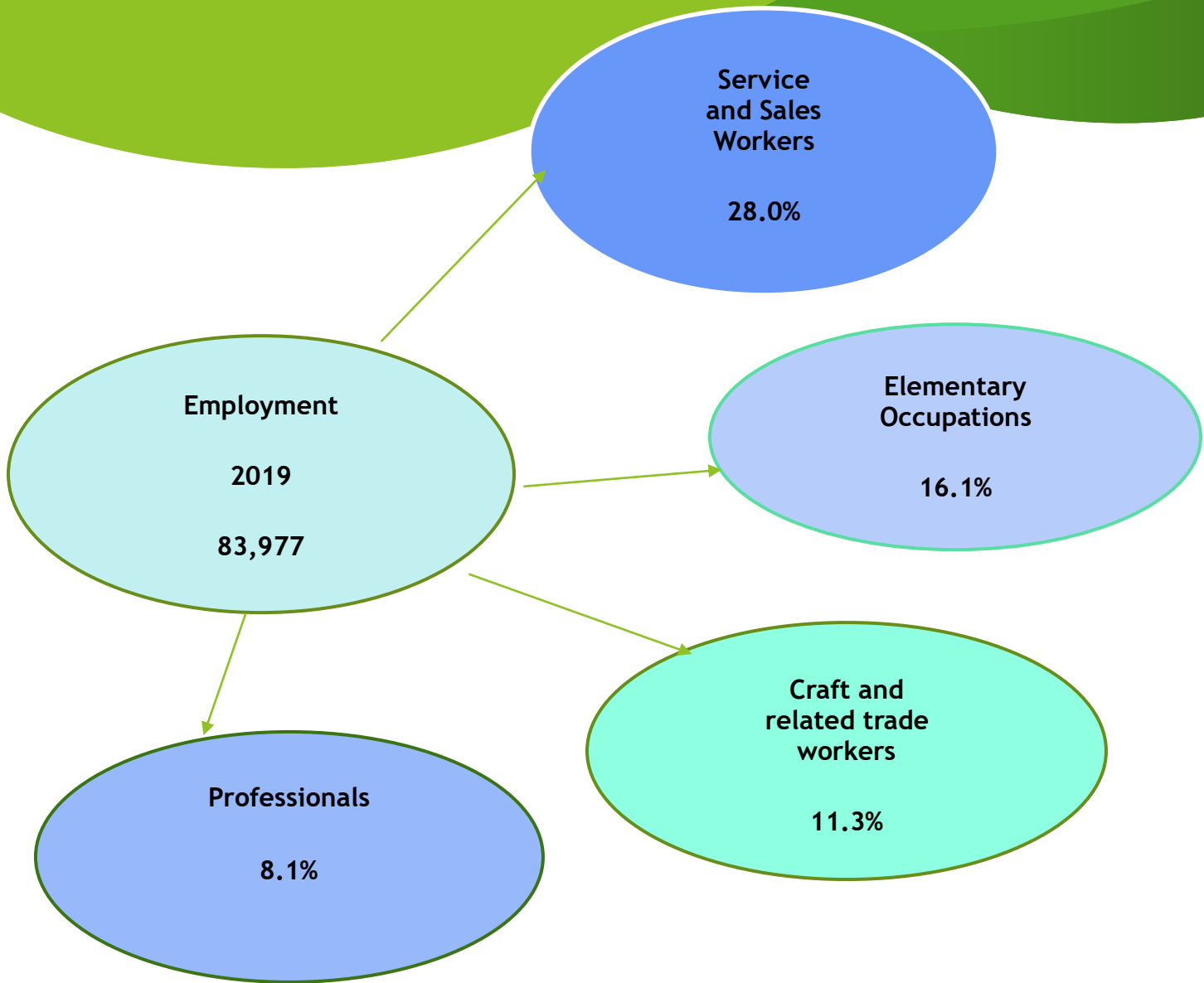




Table 3: Employment by hours of work per week and age group, 2019

Age Group	Employment by hours of work ('000s)								
	Hours							Not Stated	Total
	<25	25-34	35-39	40-48	49-59	>=60			
15-24	0.2	0.1	0.1	7.6	0.2	0.2	0.3	8.7	
25-34	0.3	0.2	0.4	14.0	0.8	0.4	0.2	16.3	
35-44	0.7	0.3	0.8	15.2	0.6	0.7	0.0	18.5	
45-54	0.7	0.9	1.2	15.6	1.3	0.9	0.1	20.7	
55-64	0.8	0.8	1.4	9.2	0.7	0.7	0.3	13.8	
65+	1.0	0.6	1.1	2.7	0.3	0.1	0.3	6.0	
Total	3.6	2.9	5.0	64.3	3.8	3.1	1.2	84.0	

Time-Related Under-Employment: The 2019 LFS results revealed that 1.3% of the employed persons in the working age population were under-employed. In 2019, 62% of employed persons contributed to the National Insurance Corporation (social security), however, there was a slight decline of 0.6 percentage points from the previous year of 2018.

Table 4: Time-related underemployment, by sex and age group, 2019

Age	Underemployment as a share of total employment (%)		
	Male	Female	Both sexes
15-24	2.0	0.0	1.1
25-34	0.8	1.1	0.9
35-44	0.6	0.4	0.5
45-54	1.5	2.6	2.0
55-64	2.2	1.5	1.9
65+	0.9	0.0	0.6
Total	1.3	1.2	1.3

Table 4 illustrates females within the age group 45 to 54 years recorded the highest share of underemployment at 2.6%, while females of age groups 15-24 recorded the lowest share of underemployment at 0.0%.

Figure 5: Wages by Occupation and Sex, 2019

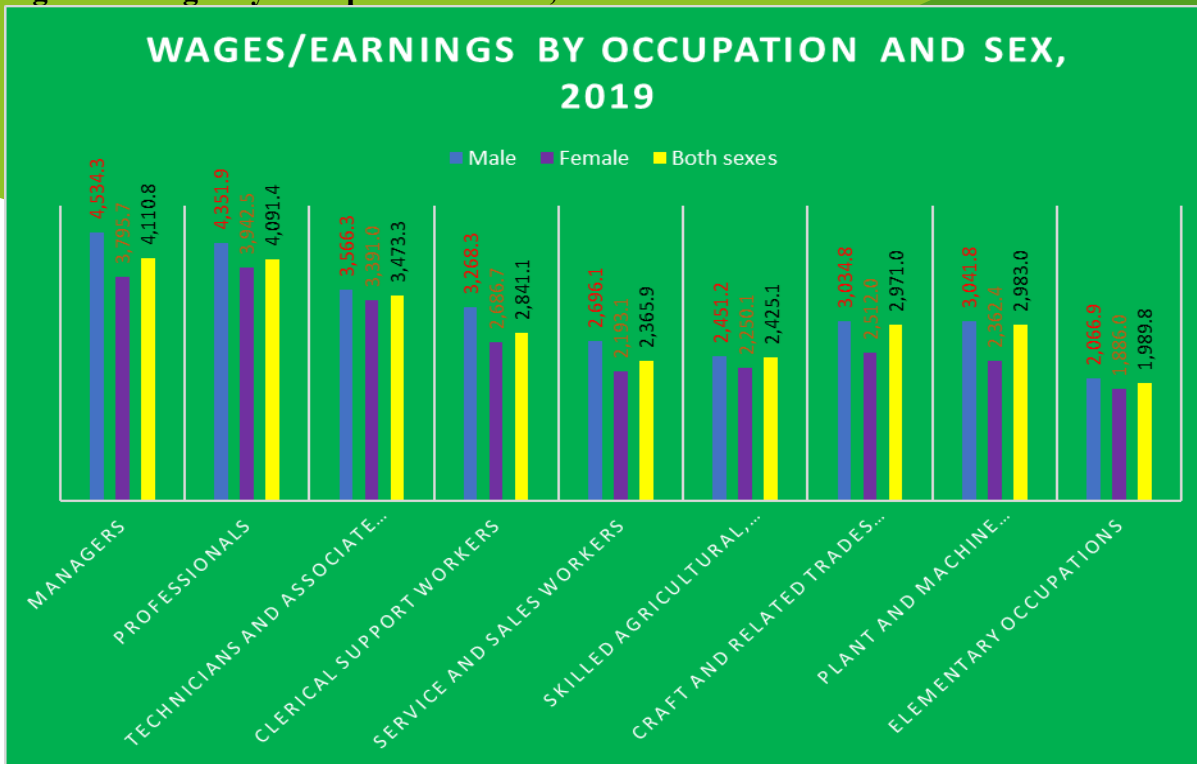
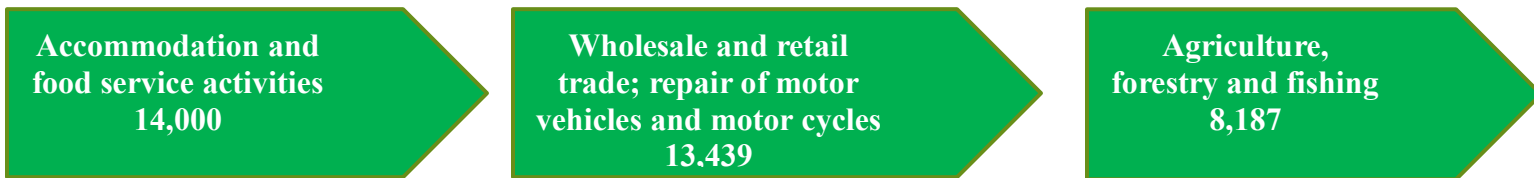


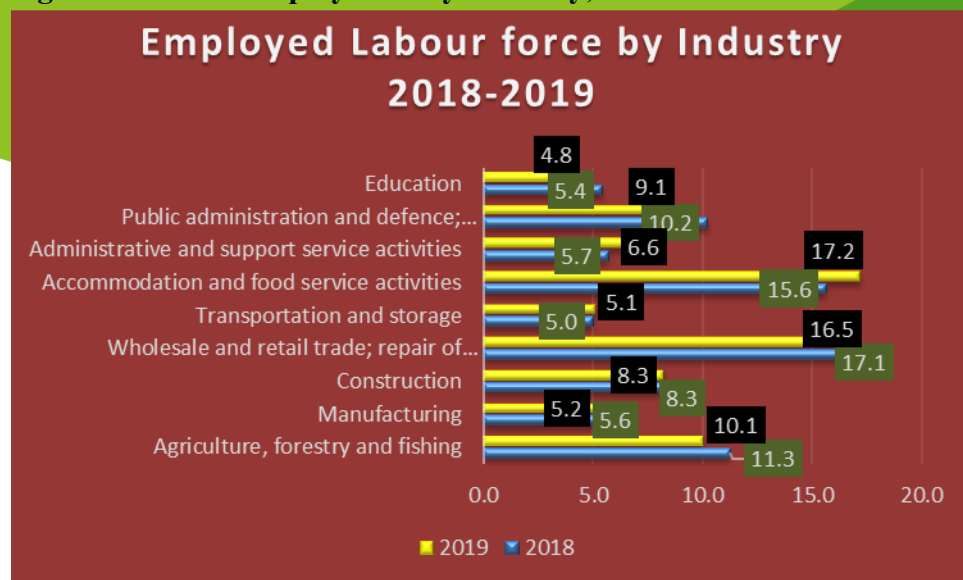
Figure 5 provides information on the earnings of persons by occupation and sex. Observably, during the period under review (2019), it shows that wages for all occupational categories are higher for males than females. The highest wage/earnings were recorded by managers and professionals.

Figure 6: Employment by Industry (top three categories), 2019



Approximately 16.7% of the workforce was classified as persons employed in “Accommodation & Food Service Activities” followed by “Wholesale and Retail Trade”, Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles” and “Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing”. Figure7 below outlines the top nine industries that accounts for the labour market.

Figure7: Annual Employment by Industry, 2018 to 2019



UNEMPLOYMENT

The unemployment rate is usually classified as the most commonly used statistical indicator of the labour market. Unemployment is defined as when an individual aged 15+ who is not in paid employment during the reference week but is available and seeking employment. It is defined as:

$$\text{Unemployment rate} = \frac{\text{Number Unemployed}}{\text{Labour Force}} * 100$$

The Labour Force Surveys of 2019 revealed an overall 16.8% unemployment rate, i.e. 16,998 unemployed persons in 2019. The largest share of the unemployment rate was recorded in the age range/cohort “15 – 24” years at 32.3%. Female unemployment rate was at 18.9% whereas male unemployment was at 14.9%. Approximately 76% of the unemployed were aged below 44 years. Figure 8 below depicts the annual unemployment rate for the past five years and portrays a descending trend in unemployment rate of 24.1% to 16.8% from 2015 to 2019 respectively. The data also outline unemployment for the period 2017 to 2018 remaining stable. The district of Vieux-Fort recorded 32.4% unemployment rate, this was the highest followed by Dennery and Laborie with 20.4% and 18.7% respectively.

Figure 8: Annual Unemployment Rate, 2015 to 2019

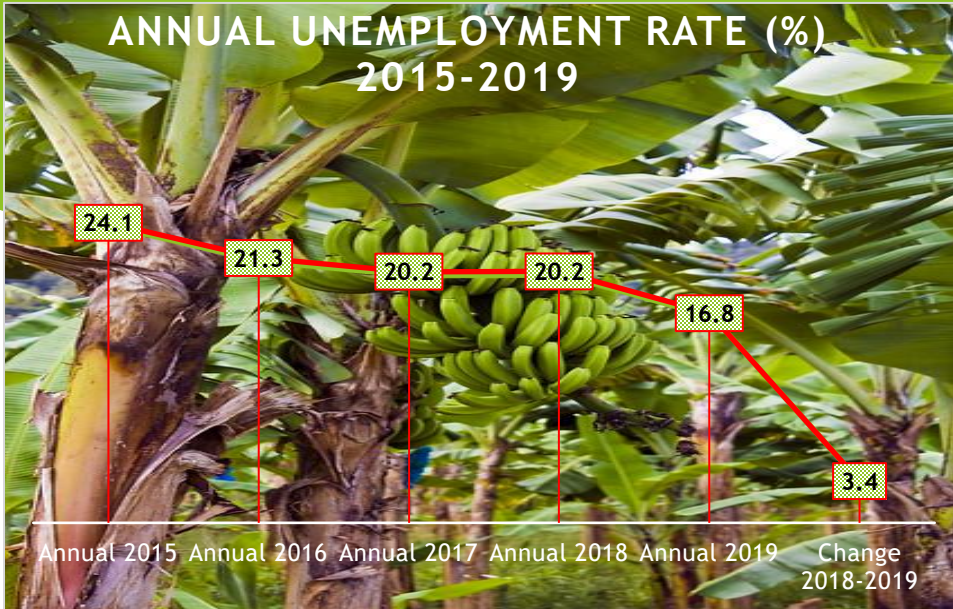
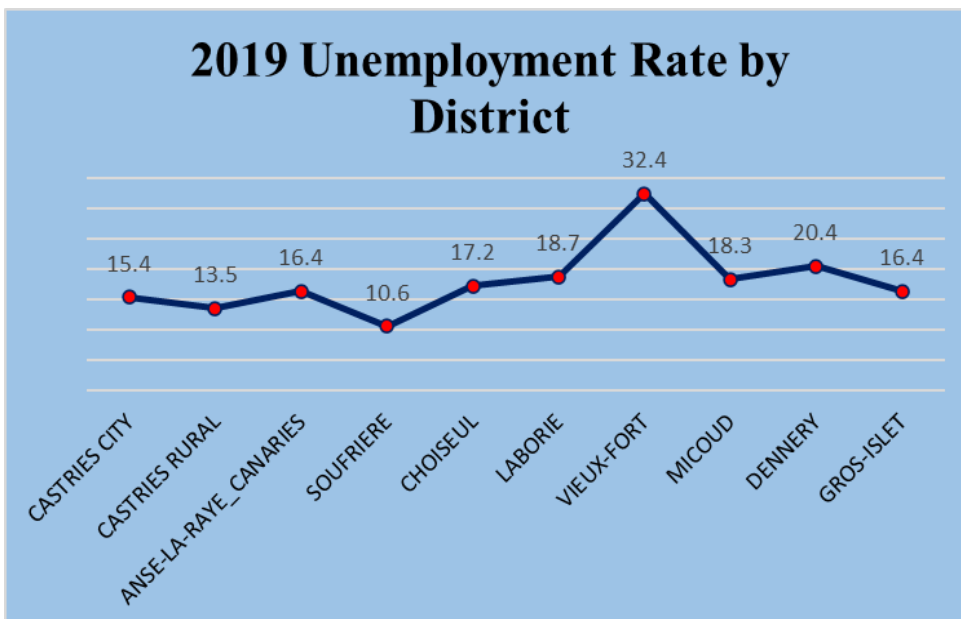


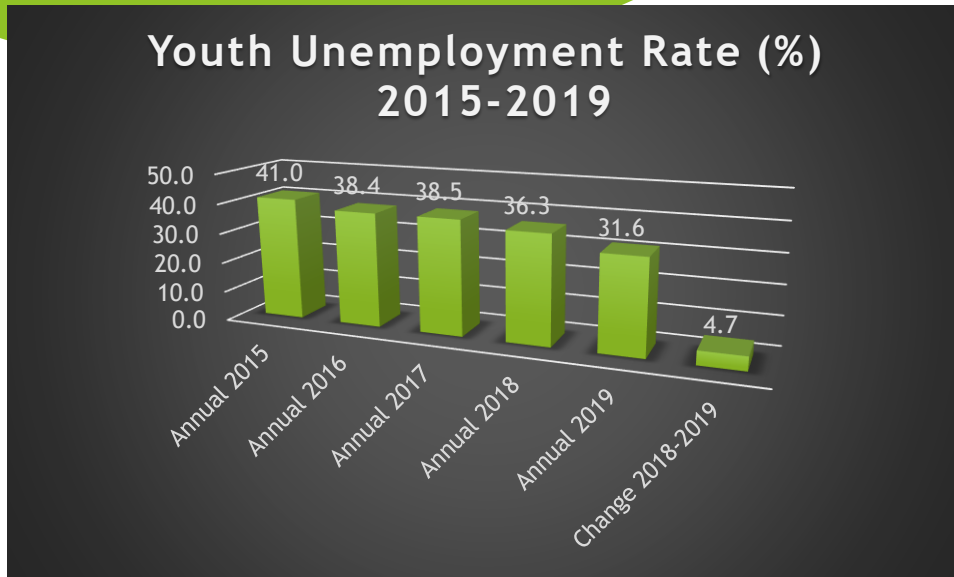
Figure 9: Unemployment Rate by District, 2019





YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Figure 10: Annual Youth Unemployment Rate, 2015 to 2019



Over the past five years, the youth unemployment rate has shown a similar downward trend as the national unemployment rate. For the time series under review, the youth unemployment recorded the highest rate in 2015 and the lowest in 2019 of 41 % and 31.6 % respectively. The survey indicated a change of 4.7% in youth unemployment from the period 2018 to 2019. Figure 11 below illustrates

that the highest proportion (78%) of unemployed youth attained upper secondary school education followed post-secondary education at 10%.

Figure 11: Youth Unemployment by Educational Attainment, 2019

